

ATTY Docket No.: 60,130-925
98UK005**REMARKS**

In the Non-Final Office Action mailed December 30, 2003, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-21, 29-34 and 39. Claims 8, 9, 15, 17 and 39 have been allowed. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-14, 18-21 and 29-34 were rejected. Moreover, claims 6, 7, 10-13, 21, 30 and 31 were objected to. Applicant has also added new claims 48-50. For the reasons stated below, Applicant believes all pending claims to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 7, 10-14, 18-21 and 30-32 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the reference to "the link" in claims 1 and 5. Applicant has amended each of these claims to address the Examiner's concerns. Therefore, this rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 14, 18, 19, 29 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,653,484 to *Brackmann, et al.* Applicant disagrees with the basis for this rejection. For the reasons set forth below, claims 1-3, 5, 14, 18, 19, 29 and 32-34 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 requires in pertinent part, "at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be moveable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause

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movement of the pawl.” This feature is not taught by *Brackmann, et al.* First, component 5 of *Brackmann, et al.* is not a lock link because it does not provide a locking function or otherwise operate as a link. For this reason, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, even assuming component 5 to be a lock link, component 5 is not moveable between one position in which movement of the release member moves the pawl and a second position where movement of the release member does not move the pawl. Instead, component 5 is merely moved as a direct consequence of the actuation of the outside handle. In other words, component 5 does not perform the locking function that the lock link is defined to perform in the claims.

In addition, claim 1 further requires, “the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link.” Again, this feature is not shown by *Brackmann, et al.* For example, during re-latching of the lock, the pawl will pivot because it will ride over the periphery of claw 1, causing pin 27 to lift clear of tab 28 without disturbing lever 5 whatsoever. Therefore, this limitation of claim 1 is not met. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependents, claims 2-3, 6-7, 10-14, 18-21, 30-32 stand in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 14, which depends upon claim 1, claim 14 requires in pertinent part, “movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second position is effected by a power actuator.” The Examiner contends that the connection between component 24 and component 5 acts as power actuator by transferring power from component 24 to component 5. Applicant disagrees with this

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position. Specifically, even assuming component 24 to be a power actuator, component 24 of *Brackmann, et al.* does not move component 5 “between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl.” Component 24 does not change component 5 between these two positions because component 24 does not effect whether component 5 is in the first position or in the second position. For this reason, claim 14 is separately allowable.

Claim 32 also depends upon claim 1 and requires, “the inside and outside lock links are both mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the inside and outside lock links.” Again, in *Brackmann, et al.*, movement of the pawl is not necessarily accompanied by movement of both the inside and outside lock links. Therefore, claim 32 is separately allowable.

Claims 5 and 33 are independent and both require in pertinent part, “an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be moveable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl.” Again, this feature is not shown by the cited reference. Therefore, claims 5 and 33 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new claims 48-50 which further distinguish the invention from the cited references. Claim 48 requires, “the associated release member is selectively engageable to the at least one of an inside and outside lock link.” This feature is not shown by *Brackmann, et al.*, which shows component 24 always engaged to component 5. Therefore, claim 48 is in condition for allowance.

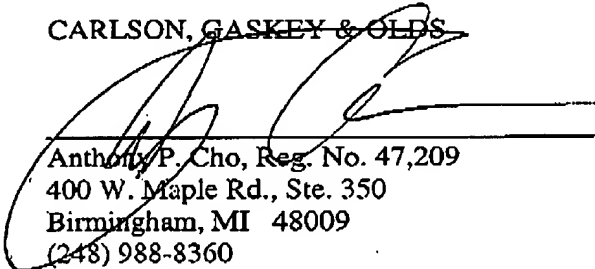
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Claim 49 depends upon claim 48 and further requires, "the associated release member is disengaged from the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in the second position." *Brackmann, et al.* does not show an associated release member disengage from a lock link in the second position. Therefore, claim 49 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 50, which depends upon claim 49, requires, "wherein movement of the associated release member is independent of movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in the second position." Again, this feature is not shown by *Brackmann, et al.* Therefore, claim 50 is in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-21, 29-34, 39, and 48-50.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$54.00 are required for three additional claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds in the amount of \$54.00. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

~~CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS~~

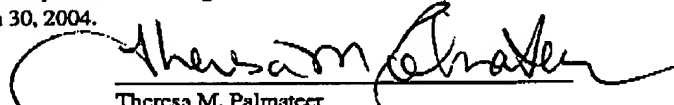
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

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Theresa M. Palmateer

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